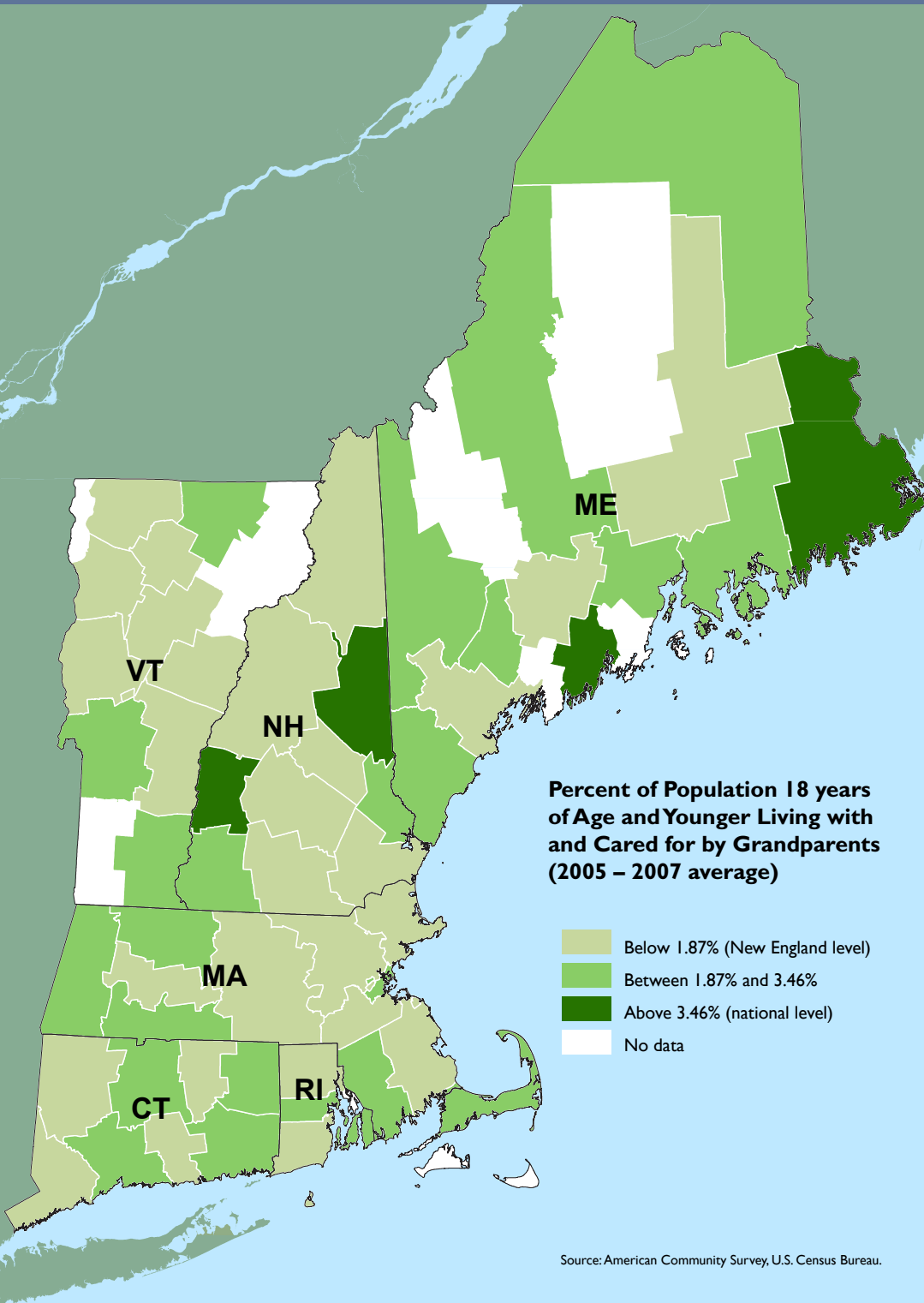


Mapping New England

Grandparents Raising Children, by County



Source: American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.

Increasingly, grandparents take grandchildren into their households and assume the role of primary caregiver. According to recent research, African Americans, younger grandparents, Native Americans, and grandparents in the western states are the most likely to do so, with the responsibilities often lasting for five or more years.

The map shows that, overall, children in New England are less likely to live with their grandparents and be cared for by them than children nationwide but that New England grandparents are more likely to parent grandchildren in Maine, Western Massachusetts, Connecticut, metro Boston, and Cape Cod.

Cultural differences, age distribution within families, migration patterns, racial and ethnic background, housing shortage, and living costs often influence whether grandparents take in grandchildren and raise them. Recent trends such as rising child-care cost, dominance of dual-worker families, popularity of telecommuting, and retirees' desire to seek additional income to offset higher living costs are also likely to shape the future of the grandparenting role.

Kai-yan Lee
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston

¹ See Lynne M. Casper and Kenneth R. Bryson. *Co-resident Grandparents and Their Grandchildren: Grandparent Maintained Families* (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 1998).

² See *Census 2000 Brief: Grandparents Living with Grandchildren* (Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, 2003).